

BOOK REVIEW

JULES G. EVANS. 2008. **California Natural History Guides: Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula, Second Edition.** (ISBN 978-0-520-25467-1, pbk.). University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, California 94704-1012, U.S.A. (**Orders:** The University of California Press c/o California/Princeton Fulfillment Services, 1445 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, New Jersey 08618, U.S.A.; www.ucpress.edu, email orders@cpfsinc.com, 1-800-777-4726, 1-800-999-1958 fax). \$24.95, 366 pp, numerous figures, graphs, images, maps, tables, checklists, index, and references, 5 1/4" × 8".

Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula is divided into seven sections that specifically describe the climate, geology, and various fauna (e.g. birds, insects, marsupials, carnivores, pinnipeds, bats, whales, ungulates, reptiles, amphibians) and flora communities that inhabit this Californian peninsula. Since the earlier publications of this book (1989, revised 1993), a team of researchers have conducted studies on Point Reyes, and the information they accumulated has greatly enhanced this new edition.

Evans provides a very detailed account of the life that thrives within the ecosystem of Point Reyes. Images of the spectacular scenery and its various inhabitants accompany comprehensive information about each of the region's habitats (terrestrial, riparian, freshwater and marine). Where ever he can, the author sprinkles in historical asides of a particular item, personal anecdotes, and definitions, greatly enhancing the overall reader experience.

I found this book to be very informative and a good resource for any naturalist or person that is eager to learn more about the diversity of biota found on Point Reyes Peninsula, California. The book's size and weight make it an ideal companion for any hiker or outdoorsman. The author used easy-to-understand terms and provided the reader with common and scientific names for most species. The inclusion of a comprehensive checklist of the fauna and flora with information on whether the species is listed as endangered, vulnerable, rare, or threatened further enhanced this book.—Keri McNew, MS Biology, Programs Manager, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 E 4th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102, U.S.A.